

***Remarks***

This amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination and its entry is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9 and 14-16 are pending in the application, with 1 and 7 being the independent claims. Claims 10, 11, 13 and 17-19 are to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-9 and 14-16 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, with the cancellation of the rejected claims 10, 11, 13 and 17-19, this application is now in condition for allowance.

***RCE and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement citing nine references for the Examiner's consideration.

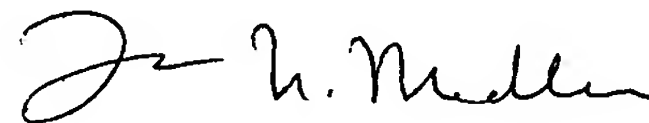
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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